

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for an enabled recipient to handle a received rights-managed email with protected content from a sender, the email comprising a main information portion having a message that the email is rights management protected and an attachment portion having the protected content, the method comprising:

using an email application to receive ~~receiving~~ the email having protected content in the attachment portion thereof, the protected content being encrypted and decryptable according to a decryption key, the decryption key being encrypted according to a public key of a rights management server to result in an encrypted decryption key;

recognizing that the email has the protected content in the attachment portion thereof;

discounting the main information portion of the email; ~~and~~

examining the attachment portion of the email comprising the encrypted decryption key and rights data relating to the protected content, the rights data setting forth each entity that has rights with respect to the protected content, and for each such entity a description of such rights;

using the email application to place the email in a queue when the email is received while the recipient is connected to a network;

retrieving the rights data in the attachment portion of the email;

while the recipient is connected to the network, using a trusted component to retrieve the email from the queue and to forward ~~forwarding~~ the retrieved rights data to a rights management server, such rights management server for determining that the recipient is an entity listed in the rights data and issuing to the recipient a license corresponding to the protected content based on the rights data, such license specifying rights the recipient has with respect to the protected content as determined from the rights data and also including the decrypted decryption key from the rights data;

reviewing the issued license to determine that the recipient has a right to render the protected content of the attachment portion of the email;

retrieving the decryption key from the license; and
rendering the content.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion comprises multiple alternative forms of a body of the email, the method further comprising selecting from among the alternative forms when rendering the protected content.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion is compressed to reduce an overall size thereof, the method further comprising decompressing the protected content.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for sending protected content from a sender to a recipient, whereby the recipient can render the protected content with a corresponding license if the recipient satisfies terms set forth in the license, the system comprising:

an encrypted email comprising:

a main information portion having a message that the email is rights management protected; and

an attachment portion having the protected content and comprising rights data relating to the protected content, the rights data setting forth each entity that has rights with respect to the protected content, and for each such entity a description of such rights;

a computing device that receives the email and forwards the rights data to a rights management server such that, if the recipient is enabled by the rights data, the computing device can render the protected content in the attachment portion and if the recipient is not enabled by the rights data, the computing device can only render the main information portion having the message,

wherein the protected content in the attachment portion is encrypted according to a cryptographic key and an item identifier associated with the protected content before the

email is encrypted, the rights data including a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted content, the decryption key being encrypted according to a public key of the rights management server to result in an encrypted decryption key,

wherein, if the recipient is enabled by the rights data, the rights management server accesses the decryption key from the encrypted decryption key with a corresponding private key and issues the license to the recipient, the license comprising the decryption key.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion comprises multiple alternative forms of a body of the email, whereby the recipient can select from among the alternative forms when rendering the protected content.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion comprises a body and an attachment list, the attachment list including preface information, at least one attachment to the body, and any metadata relating to each attachment of the body.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion is compressed to reduce an overall size thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for an enabled recipient to handle a received rights-managed email with protected content from a sender, the email comprising a main information portion having a message that the email is rights management protected and an attachment portion having the protected content, the computer-executable instructions, when executed by a processor, causing the processor to:

maintain a list of non-responding rights management servers;

use an email application to receive the email having protected content in the attachment portion thereof, the protected content being encrypted and decryptable according

to a decryption key, the decryption key being encrypted according to a public key of a rights management server to result in an encrypted decryption key;

recognize that the email has the protected content in the attachment portion thereof;
discount the main information portion of the email; ~~and~~

examine the attachment portion of the email comprising the encrypted decryption key and rights data relating to the protected content, the rights data setting forth each entity that has rights with respect to the protected content, and for each such entity a description of such rights and a description of conditions imposed on such rights;

use the email application to place the email in a queue when the email is received while the recipient is connected to a network;

retrieve the rights data in the attachment portion of the email;

while the recipient is connected to the network, use a trusted component to retrieve the email from the queue and to forward the retrieved rights data to a rights management server that is not in the list of non-responding rights management servers, such rights management server for determining that the recipient is an entity listed in the rights data and issuing to the recipient a license corresponding to the protected content to the recipient based on the rights data, such license specifying rights the recipient has with respect to the protected content as determined from the rights data and also including the decrypted decryption key from the rights data;

if the rights management server does not respond to the forwarded retrieved rights data by issuing the license, then enter the rights management server into the list of non-responding rights management servers;

review the issued license to determine that the recipient has a right to render the protected content of the attachment portion of the email;

retrieve the decryption key from the license; and

render the content, wherein if it is determined that the recipient does not have the right to print the protected content of the attachment portion of the email, print functionality is disabled with respect to the protected content.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion comprises multiple alternative forms of a body of the email, the computer-executable instructions, when executed by a processor, further causing the processor to select from among the alternative forms when rendering the protected content.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion is compressed to reduce an overall size thereof, the computer-executable instructions, when executed by a processor, further causing the processor to decompress the protected content.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for sending protected content from a sender to a recipient, whereby the recipient can render the protected content with a corresponding license if the recipient satisfies terms set forth in the license, the system comprising:

an email comprising:

a main information portion having a message that the email is rights management protected; and

an attachment portion having the protected content and comprising rights data relating to the protected content, the rights data setting forth each entity that has rights with respect to the protected content, and for each such entity a description of such rights;

a recipient computer executing an email application and a trusted component, the email application configured to receive the email, to recognize that the email has the protected content in the attachment portion thereof, and to place the email in a queue when the email is received while the recipient computer is connected to a network, the trusted component configured to retrieve the email from the queue while the recipient computer is connected to the network and request a license for the protected content; and

a rights management server ~~computer~~ that receives the rights data from the email and issues the license based on the rights data such that, if the recipient is enabled by the rights data, the rights management server issues the license, and, if the recipient is not enabled by the rights data, the rights management server refuses to issue the license,

wherein the protected content in the attachment portion is encrypted according to a cryptographic key, the rights data including a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted content, the decryption key being encrypted according to a public key of the rights management server to result in an encrypted decryption key,

wherein, if the recipient is enabled by the rights data, the rights management server accesses the decryption key from the encrypted decryption key with a corresponding private key and issues the license to the recipient, the license comprising the decryption.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion comprises multiple alternative forms of a body of the email, whereby the recipient can select from among the alternative forms when rendering the protected content.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion comprises a body and an attachment list, the attachment list including preface information, at least one attachment to the body, and any metadata relating to each attachment of the body.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the protected content in the attachment portion is compressed to reduce an overall size thereof.